

(b) The Election Commission is reviewing the entire matter with a view to ensuring that identity cards are issued to all eligible electors within a revised time-frame. The Commission, however, has not yet fixed any revised deadline for issuance of photo identity cards to all electors.

[Translation]

Price Index

1967. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the increase in the consumer price index in the country during 1996;

(b) whether there has been a wide gap between the wholesale price index and consumer price index in the country during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The details of increase in the Consumer Price Index for industrial workers, CPI(IW) and the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for the last three years and the gap between the two series are given in the attached statement.

The CPI(IW) during the year 1996 has increased from 315 in January, 1996 to 328 in May, 1996. The gap between WPI and CPI(IW) ranged between a low of 6.6 to a high of 14.8 during the period April, 1993 to May, 1995. Thereafter the gap has increased to a high of 23.9 by May 1996.

(c) variation in the magnitude of rise between the two indices is due to the difference in the composition and relative weights of their respective basket of commodities. The WPI monitored on weekly basis monitors movement of wholesale prices of 447 commodities of all traded goods. The CPI (IW) reflects monthly movements in retail prices of 260 commodities and services. The high relative rise in CPI(IW) reflects the impact of increase in prices of food and food products which have a higher weightage in CPI(IW) than in WPI.

STATEMENT

Monthly Index of WPI and CPI(IW)

Month	WPI Base 81-82	CPI (IW) Base 1982	Absolute difference
1	2	3	4
Apr 1993	234.6	245	10.4
May	237.0	246	9.0
Jun	239.8	250	10.2
Jul	243.1	253	9.9
Aug	247.0	256	9.0

1	2	3	4	5
Sep		250.9	259	8.1
Oct		252.2	262	9.8
Nov		251.6	265	13.4
Dec		251.7	264	12.3
Jan 1994		252.7	263	10.3
Feb		254.8	265	10.2
Mar		257.6	267	9.4
Apr		262.3	269	6.7
May		265.4	272	6.6
Jun		268.1	277	8.9
Jul		271.3	281	9.7
Aug		272.1	284	11.9
Sep		273.2	288	14.8
Oct		274.7	289	14.3
Nov		276.2	291	14.8
Dec		279.9	289	9.1
Jan 1995		283.3	289	5.8
Feb		284.7	291	6.3
Mar		284.9	293	8.1
Apr		288.4	295	6.6
May		291.7	300	8.4
Jun		292.6	306	13.4
Jul		294.2	313	18.8
Aug		296.1	315	18.9
Sep		297.4	317	19.6
Oct		297.9	319	21.1
Nov		299.2	321	21.8
Dec		297.8	317	19.2
Jan 1996		297.4	315	17.6
Feb		297.9	316	18.1
Mar		299.4	319	19.6
Apr		301.4	324	22.6
May		304.1	328	23.9

[English]

Smuggling of Arms/Drugs

1968. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Arms and Drugs are pouring in India through various Indo-Pak boundaries; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to stop such inflow?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes. Sir. Reports of enforcement agencies indicate the Indo Pakistan border is vulnerable to smuggling of arms and drugs.